United Nations

Press Release

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General appeals to all leaders in Soviet Union for "peaceful and constitutional solution" to present crisis.

- Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia announces re-establishment of United Nations presence in Somalia.

- Permanent Representative of Cuba calls on United Nations Member States to raise issue of lifting United States sanctions against his country during forthcoming General Assembly session.

- Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination discusses World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled for 1993.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar pointed out today in a statement that in his comments made yesterday on developments in the Soviet Union, he had expressed the profound hope that violence and civil strife would be avoided and that the process of democratization would not be derailed. Given the heightened tension today, he said, he urgently appealed to all leaders in the Soviet Union to exert the maximum restraint so that a peaceful and constitutional solution could be found to the present crisis facing the country.

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A United Nations spokesman said today that the Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia, Osman Hashim, had announced the re-establishment of the United Nations presence in Somalia as of 15 August. Mr. Hashim and senior officials of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) had joined in officially relaunching United Nations humanitarian programmes suspended in January this year, "due to the difficult situation" in Somalia.

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For information media—not an official record

The Ambassador of Cuba to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, has called on Member States of the United Nations to take up the question of lifting the United States sanctions against his country during the forthcoming General Assembly session beginning in September. At a press conference at Headquarters today, he said many countries supported the idea and thought the present situation should be ended.

Mr. Quesada drew attention to a resolution adopted on 2 August by the Latin American Parliament, composed of representatives of every legislative body in Latin America, which asked for the ending of the economic blockade against Cuba.

He also called on the international community to put pressure on the United States to stop the economic blockade of his country.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has considered the nature of its contribution to the preparatory process of the World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled for 1993.

The General Assembly decided last year to convene a high level World Conference to take such actions as assessing the progress made in human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and identifying the obstacles to further progress in that area.

Preparations for the Conference will start in September in Geneva.

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